

Minutes of the  
CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE COMMISSION  
Wednesday, July 8, 2015  
Conference call initiated from  
Icelandic Room at North Dakota Department of Commerce  
Bismarck, ND

### CALL TO ORDER

Mark Nisbet, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Mark Nisbet, Greg Stemen, Mike Ness, Kevin Melicher, Jim Traynor

**Commissioners Absent:** Tim Hennessy

**Others Present:** Al Anderson, Justin Dever and Christopher Kalash of the ND Department of Commerce

### COMMISSION BUSINESS

#### COE - Center Surface Protection

Request for a timeline extension until June 30, 2017 and a budget modification

In response to a question from Nisbet, Dever stated that this center has asked for 2 previous timeline extensions.

In response to a question from Melicher, Dever stated that there are no restrictions on how many timeline extensions can be granted to a Center of Excellence. There is such a restriction on Research North Dakota (RND) awards. RND awards may only be extended one year. Also, if this extension is not granted, the remaining funds may not be transferred to RND. They will stay in the Centers of Excellence fund and will be available for administration.

**It was moved by Stemen, seconded by Traynor to deny the Center for Surface Protection's timeline extension request.**

Dever mentioned in further discussion that this center would be eligible to apply for an Research ND award.

Motion carried on a voice vote.

#### Venture Grant – Development of Inhibitors Targeting the gamma-herpesviruses

Request was for a timeline extension through June 30, 2016

**It was moved by Melicher and seconded by Ness, to approve one extension, but not allow any further extensions beyond June 30, 2016.** Motion carried on a voice vote.

#### 2014 Monitoring Report Review

**UND-Petroleum Research Education, and Entrepreneurship Center** – There was discussion about the number of jobs predicted in the application versus the actual number of jobs that have resulted. Nisbet stated that one of the benefits of this Center is the existence of a Bachelor's in petroleum engineering program. **It was moved by Melicher and seconded by Traynor to list this center as "On Track" in the 2014 Monitoring Report.** Motion carried on a voice vote.

#### UND-SUNRISE BioProducts Center of Excellence for Chemicals, Polymers and Composites –

Dever stated that the technology developed was successful and it is likely that it will be used. The private sector partner was unable to get the financing in place to create the demonstration plant that was to be part of this

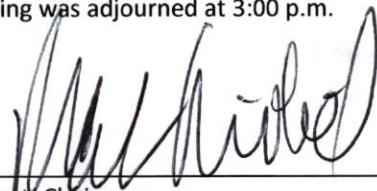
project. As a result, the projected number of jobs was not met. **It was moved by Ness and seconded by Stemen to list this center as "Needs Improvement" in the 2014 Monitoring Report.** Motion carried on a voice vote.

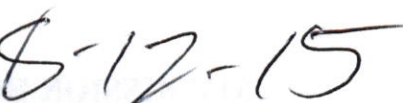
**DCB-Entrepreneurial Center for Horticulture** – There was discussion about the difficulty of reporting for ten years on the job creation associated with these awards. **It was moved by Melicher and seconded by Traynor to list this center as "On Track," in the 2014 Monitoring Report, and would like an update on the number of jobs the Center believes it will create.** Motion carried on a voice vote.

**UND-UAS Software Curriculum & Development & UND-UAS Research, Education & Training Enhancement Grant** – There was discussion about the fact that the goals of these projects have not been reached, but this project still shows promise as long as the center secures some larger training contracts. **It was moved by Ness and seconded by Stemen to list both of these this centers as "Needs Improvement" in the 2014 Monitoring Report.** Motion carried on a voice vote.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

  
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Mark Nisbet, Chairman

  
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Date

  
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Christopher Kalash, Acting Recording Secretary

  
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Date